

That is where we are again.

Last week, on a bipartisan basis, the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, which went into effect on August 23. It was a pretty big vote for a controversial issue: 223 voted against the President, including 22 Republicans, and 193 voted for the President's plan, all Republicans. Now the Senate is going to take up the issue.

But already aides to House leaders like Majority Leader TOM DELAY have indicated publicly that they will not let this amendment stay in the final bill that goes to the President for signature. Even though the majority of the House voted to stop the President's overtime pay cut, the President's allies are here to prevent the majority will of the House from prevailing.

Mr. Speaker, what is wrong with the current leadership in this Congress? They do not respect the will of the majority.

You know, sometimes it works just the other way. Take the vote on Medicare last year, one of the most controversial pieces of legislation to come before this body. The President's plan was crafted and designed for the drug companies and the insurance companies, even though it was supposed to be for seniors to help them pay for the high cost of valuable prescription drugs. But the Medicare bill does nothing to slow the rising prices of prescription drugs for seniors.

When the bill was brought to the House floor in November last year, those of us who opposed the bill were winning. When the clock ran out and the time was up for the vote to be ended, we were winning. The Medicare bill was going to be defeated. But the Republicans had another idea.

□ 1245

They refused to bring the vote to a close. Twenty minutes went by, a normal time for a vote. We were winning. An hour went by; we were winning. Two hours went by; we were still winning. By this time, early in the morning, the President had been woken up to make phone calls, to help in the feverish effort to twist congressional arms. One Congressman said afterwards that he had been offered a bribe by a congressional leader for his vote, a matter that is still under investigation by the FBI and the House Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

Finally, after nearly 3 hours, one of the longest votes to be held in the history of Congress, the President's allies turned enough votes; and they proceeded to pass the drug companies' Medicare bill by a slim majority. And that bill is now law.

Whether it is protecting overtime pay of the middle class or protecting seniors from the drug companies' Medicare law, or countless other issues, the current leaders in Congress do not respect or honor the majority here in the Congress who support these measures. They will not respect the will of the

majority of Americans who are represented by those Members of Congress, over half of the country expressing their view that they do not want that law to go into effect, whether it is to cut overtime pay or whether it is the phony prescription drug bill that does not provide the benefits that our seniors need and have come to expect.

This is one of the many things that is wrong with the way the House of Representatives is being run under the current leadership, and it is one of the things that must change come this November.

The House and Senate should respect the will of the majority of its Members on these issues of overtime pay and middle-class prescription drug benefits.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. COLE). Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 46 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: "Glorious things are said of You, Lord God, before the nations!"

This weekend from the pulpits, choirs and cantors across this Nation rang out the freedom of worship enjoyed by the American people.

Now, as the work of the 108th Congress ensues this week, may freedom of speech be modeled in the House of Representatives.

May respect for parliamentary law, civil debate and good order be strengthened in the legislative branch of government here and in other democratic countries around the world.

In modeling such behavior, we give You glory, Lord, and become a sign of Your glory to other nations.

Guide the work of Your people, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Guam (Mr.

BORDALLO) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BORDALLO led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1368. An act to authorize the President to award a gold medal on behalf of the Congress to Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. (posthumously) and his widow Coretta Scott King in recognition of their contributions to the Nation on behalf of the civil rights movement.

S. Con. Res. 127. Concurrent resolution representing the sense of Congress that the President should designate September 11 as a national day of voluntary service, charity, and compassion.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 9:25 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 361.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments S. 2634.

Appointments:
Helping to Enhance the Livelihood of People (HELP).

Around the Globe Commission.
Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAH, L,
Clerk of the House.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 10, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on September 10, 2004 at 11:55 a.m.: